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WELLINGBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

YEAR 1956



P. X. BERMINGHAM, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

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CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Ambulance facilities	8
Area	7
Bed Bugs	10
Births	7
Cancer	3
Census	3
Cleansing, Public	11
Clinics and Treatment Centres	8
Committee, Health and Sanitary	4
Deaths	7
Diarrhoea	3
Diphtheria Antitoxin	8
Diphtheria Immunisation	16
Disinfection	10
Drainage and Sewage	10
Dysentery	17
Erysipelas	17
Factories Act	19
Food—Inspection and Supervision of Food Premises	14
Food Poisoning	17
Health Services, General Provision of	8
Hospitals	8
Housing	12, 13
Illegitimate Births	7
Infant Mortality	7
Infectious Diseases	16, 17
Influenza	17
Laboratory Facilities	8
Maternal Mortality	7
Measles	17
Meat Inspection	14
Milk Supplies	14
National Assistance	8
Natural and Social Conditions	7
Neo-natal Mortality	7
Nursing in the Home	8
Pneumonia	17
Poliomyelitis	17
Population	3, 7
Public Health Officers	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	17
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	10
Sanitary Circumstances	9, 10
Scarlet Fever	16
Smallpox	16
Statistical Tables	20—32
Stillbirths	7
Swimming Baths	10
Tuberculosis	18
Typhoid	17
Vaccination	16
Water Supply	9
Whooping Cough	17

WELLINGBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1956.

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33,115
Population 1931 (census)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12,760
Population 1951 (census)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13,002
Population 1956	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13,600
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1931 (census)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,558
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1956	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,665
Rateable Value 1956	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£117,887
Product of a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£240

LIVE BIRTHS.					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	186	86	100	
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	6	1	5	
					192	87	105	14.11

STILLBIRTHS.					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	3	1	2	
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	—	—	—	
					3	1	2	0.22

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
DEATHS (all causes)	..	..	..	..	176	93	83	12.94

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES—

Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	..	..	..	..	—	—	—	
Other puerperal causes	..	..	..	..	—	—	—	
Total	..	..	..	..				Nil

INFANT MORTALITY—rate for 1,000 live births.

Legitimate	..	..	..	..	4	2	2	
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	—	—	—	
					4	2	2	20.83

Deaths from (a) Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
„ „ (b) Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
„ „ (c) Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
„ „ (d) Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

Wellingborough Rural District Council

Members of the Public Health Committee :

MESSRS. R. GRIGGS (*Chairman*), R. H. PARSONS (*Vice-Chairman*), MRS. R. TUSON, T. S. ASKEW, F. BOULTON, F. E. BULLOCK, J. GRAY, J. C. HALLIDAY, T. REYNOLDS, R. J. SANDERS, B. A. J. TAYLOR, G. J. THOMPSON (*ex-officio*), D. S. WILSON.

Public Health Officer of the Local Authority :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

P. X. BERMINGHAM, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H.

also holds appointment of :

Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Higham Ferrers,
Medical Officer of Health, Wellingborough Urban District,
Medical Officer of Health, Rushden Urban District,
Medical Officer of Health, Irthlingborough Urban District,
Schools Medical Officer.

Secretary :

MISS J. PEARSON.

Senior Public Health Inspector, Meat Inspector, etc. :

GEOFFREY HERBERT COWLES, Certified S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector :

JOHN STEPHEN GEE, Final A.L.P.A. (Hsg. Man.),
Cert. S.I.B., A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
Certificate as Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Health Department,

Swanspool,

Wellingborough.

July, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the Wellingborough Rural District Council :

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my ninth annual report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the area for the year 1956.

In Section A the vital statistics for the year will be found. The birth rate showed an increase, 14.11 per 1,000 population compared with 12.93 in the previous year. The death rate, 12.94 per 1,000 of population, was higher than the previous year when it was 10.87. There were no deaths from maternal causes. The infant mortality rate showed a considerable fall on the rate for the previous year and was 20.83 per 1,000 births compared with 32.96 in 1955. Table No. 4 in Section H gives further information concerning this rate dating back to 1946 and it will be seen from this table that the trend is a satisfactory fall since that year.

An account of the Health Services available is given in Section B.

Section C deals with the Sanitary Circumstances of the area and a short account is given of the Pitsford Water Works which opened during the year. As part of the Rural district receives its water supply from this source I thought this would be of interest to members. The Rural district is very well catered for with regard to piped and treated water supplies to all 18 parishes. Some of the older sewage disposal works in the area are not functioning satisfactorily and new disposal schemes will be required in the near future.

An account of the building programme and action taken with regard to unfit houses will be found in Section D. From this it will be seen that the Council was very active during the year and much good work was carried out.

The next Section, E, is concerned with the inspection and supervision of Food. The new Food Hygiene Regulations caused increased activity with regard to visits to Food Premises. Also in this section it will be seen that the number of animals killed for human consumption showed a marked increase. A hundred per cent. inspection of all meat for human consumption is carried out.

It is pleasing to report that milk and ice cream sampling has been commenced again in the area.

From Section F which deals with the prevalence and control of Infectious Diseases it will be seen that the number of cases of infectious diseases occurring during the year was less than the previous year. This was due mostly to the fall in the number of cases of measles. The mild outbreak of Food Poisoning was quickly dealt with. The first case was in connection with an outbreak in another area. Once a link was established between cases further spread was prevented. An important event during this period was the introduction of a vaccine to protect against Poliomyelitis. Quantities of this vaccine at first were very limited and only selected age groups were vaccinated. As the supply increases it is hoped that the protection will be made available to all children and later to adults also. It is pleasing to report that the area has been free from a case of Diphtheria for a period of 10 years. This speaks highly of the Immunisation campaign.

In conclusion I should like to thank the other officials of the Council for information supplied for this report and for their help and assistance throughout the year. I should also like to thank Mr. Cowles for his ever-ready assistance and co-operation and Miss Pearson for her help in compiling this report. Finally I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their encouragement and help throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

P. X. BERMINGHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

AREA.—The Rural District of Wellingborough covers an area of 33,115 acres. The density of population is 2.4 persons per acre and the housing factor is 2.9 persons per house.

POPULATION.—The estimated mid-year population given in the Registrar-General's returns was 13,600. This shows a fall of 470 on the previous year. Births outnumbered deaths by 16 during the year.

DEATHS.—176 deaths were recorded during the year. This gives a death rate of 12.94 per 1,000 population. The rate for the previous year was 10.87. The death rate for England and Wales for 1956 was 11.7. A classification of the causes of deaths is given in Table No. 1 in Section H. From this it will be seen that once again by far the greatest cause of death was from diseases of the heart and circulatory system. These deaths numbered 97 which is eight less than in the previous year. The number of cancer deaths was 36 which is four more than in 1955. Five of these deaths were due to cancer of the lung or bronchus. This figure is one less than last year. One non-respiratory tuberculosis death occurred. There was one death from respiratory tuberculosis in the previous year, but none in 1956.

BIRTHS.—192 births were recorded which gives a birth rate of 14.11 per 1,000 population. The rate for the previous year was 12.93. The rate for England and Wales for 1956 was 15.7.

STILLBIRTHS.—Three stillbirths were recorded which gives a rate of 0.22 per 1,000 population compared with 0.49 for the previous year.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.—Six illegitimate births were registered which gives a rate of 0.44 per 1,000 of population. The rate for the previous year was 0.92.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.—No death was recorded. The rate for the previous year was 5.2 per 1,000 live and stillbirths when one death occurred.

INFANT MORTALITY.—Four infant deaths occurred during the year which gives an infant mortality rate of 20.83 per 1,000 live births. The rate for the previous year was 32.96. The infant mortality rate for England and Wales for 1956 was 23.8.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY.—This is a sub-division of the infant mortality rate and concerns infant deaths which occur within 28 days of independent existence. All four deaths occurred within this period so the rate is the same as the infant mortality rate which is 20.83. The rate for the previous year was 27.42 per 1,000 live births..

In Section H, Table No. 10 gives the causes of infant deaths.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

LABORATORY SERVICE.—The area is served by two laboratories, the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton which comes under Dr. Hoyle, and the Laboratory at Kettering General Hospital with branches at the Park Hospital, Wellingborough and the Rushden Memorial Hospital, which is under Dr. Voss. Specimens associated with Infectious Diseases can be sent to these laboratories. Water samples, milk and ice cream samples are sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton. The assistance of Dr. Hoyle and Dr. Voss in these matters was much appreciated during the year.

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN.—The Oxford Regional Hospital Board is responsible for the supply of this and stocks are kept at :

Northampton General Hospital,
Kettering General Hospital,
Rushden House Sanatorium.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.—This service is provided by the County Council and the H.Q. for the Urban and Rural districts of Wellingborough is at Church Street, Wellingborough.

NURSING IN THE HOME AND HOME HELPS.—These services are provided by the County Council. I am grateful to the County Medical Officer of Health for assistance in providing Home Helps to cases referred to him from the district.

HEALTH SERVICES AVAILABLE IN THE AREA AND HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—The provision of these services comes under the Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

General Hospitals—Northampton,
Kettering.

Gynaecological and Children—Wellingborough Hospital.

Acute Medical Cases and Skin—Highfield Hospital, Wellingborough.

Chronic Sick, The Aged and Persons in

Need of Care and Attention—The Park Hospital, Wellingborough.

Tuberculosis—Rushden House Sanatorium.

Out-patient Clinics covering all the specialised branches of medicine are held at the Rushden Memorial Hospital, The Hayway, Rushden.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.—The County Health Department are responsible for these and centres are held in the different villages as follows :

Bozeat—4th Wednesday of each month at the Church Hall.

Wollaston—1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at the Parochial Rooms.

Earls Barton—2nd and 4th Friday of each month in the Baptist School-rooms.

Irchester—1st and 3rd Friday of each month at Parsons' Hall.

Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics :

Oxford Street Clinic, Wellingborough—Monday afternoons and Thursday mornings.

Rushden, Queen Street—Thursday mornings.

Northampton, County Buildings—Monday mornings, Wednesday mornings.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.—No action was necessary under Section 47 of this Act. A number of visits to Old Folks in the area was made during the year.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY.—The Rural District gets its water supply from two Water Boards.

The Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board supplies the following parishes : Hardwick, Lt. Harrowden, Gt. Harrowden, Isham, Orlingbury and Sywell. The Higham Ferrers and Rushden Water Board supplies : Bozeat, Wollaston, Easton Maudit, Gt. Doddington, Earls Barton, Ecton, Mears Ashby, Wilby, Grendon, Irchester, Lt. Irchester, and Strixton.

Newton Bromswold receives its water supply from Oundle and Thrapston by arrangement with the Board.

There was a change in the source of supply from the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board during the year. The Pitsford Reservoir works were opened on the 25th October, 1956, by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. The reservoir is situated about five miles north of Northampton in a valley on a tributary of the Brampton branch of the River Nene. The area of the gathering ground is about 19 square miles and is mostly agricultural land in character with a certain amount of ironstone quarrying. The reservoir was formed by the construction of an earthen embankment accross a valley. This reservoir will hold about 4,000 million gallons. Treatment of water is as follows : water from the reservoir flows to a raw water pumping station below the dam and is then pumped to the treatment works. These works are situated at the southern end of the reservoir and above the dam. The works consist of a chemical block, reaction tanks, filters, filtered water tank and pumping station. The water is softened then passed through open rapid gravity filters and then to the filtered water tank for sterilisation by chlorine. Water thus treated is then pumped into three trunk mains for distribution. A number of visits were made to the works during the year and I am grateful to Mr. Brown, Engineer and Manager to the Board for the opportunity afforded in seeing this great undertaking.

The sources of supply of the Higham Ferrers and Rushden Water Board remain unchanged and consist of wells in the river gravels at Hardwater Crossing, Wollaston, and Sywell Reservoir. Two further small sources consists of Earls Barton gravel well and springs at Grendon.

QUALITY OF WATER.—A chemical analysis of samples taken from Sywell and Hardwater Crossing on 12th November, 1956 was made. The results of these two examinations were satisfactory and water stated to be fit for drinking purposes. The final remarks of the Chemist were as follows :

Sywell—A fairly soft water containing an appreciable amount of organic matter though free from bacterial contamination. The fluoride content may be considered satisfactory.

Wollaston.—A hard water containing an appreciable amount of organic matter though free from bacterial contamination. The fluoride content may be considered satisfactory.

In Section H, Table No. 13 gives the results of bacteriological examination of samples of water taken in the area during the year. This does not include samples taken by the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board. With regard to this, however, during the year in the Wellingborough area 77 samples were taken by me which gave the following results :

<i>No.</i>	<i>Very Satisfactory</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Suspicious</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
77	62	7	5	3

No fæcal coli were found in the three unsatisfactory samples. The Board were notified of the five suspicious and three unsatisfactory samples, and the necessary action was taken.

The situation in the Rural District of Wellingborough with regard to piped and treated water supplies to the eighteen parishes is satisfactory.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL, DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—In last year's Annual Report an account of the methods adopted for sewage disposal for the different parishes was given. Since then the pumping station, sewerage system and works for the parish of Grendon has been completed. In recent years disposal plants for the parishes of Bozeat, Orlingbury, Lt. Harrowden and Gt. Harrowden, and Grendon have been constructed. Sewage effluent from Wilby is taken into the Wellingborough sewers and the outfall sewer from Isham is taken to the Kettering Borough disposal works which are in the vicinity.

With regard to some of the older disposal plants and works in the area, the time has come when they require re-construction or new methods of disposal. This applies to Earls Barton and Irchester and consideration is being given to these two parishes. The Wollaston works are grossly overloaded and not functioning satisfactorily. Here again action will be required in the future. The disposal of trade wastes in some of the parishes creates an added problem with regard to the sewage disposal plants.

SWIMMING POOLS.—There are two open air swimming pools in the area, one at Wilby and one at Overstone. Ten samples of water were taken from the Wilby pool for bacteriological examination. Nine were satisfactory and one suspicious. The one suspicious sample was followed up and action taken resulted in subsequent samples being satisfactory. Five samples were taken from the Overstone pool and all were satisfactory.

DISINFECTION.—Nine rooms were disinfected following cases of Infectious diseases.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—Three cases were dealt with during the year and one of fleas.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.—27 premises required attention during the year.

HYDROGEN CYANIDE (FUMIGATION OF BUILDINGS) REGULATIONS, 1951.—Two inspections of a flour mill in the area were carried out prior to fumigation, and the necessary certificate supplied in accordance with the above regulations.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—The following table shows the scheme for refuse collection for the different parishes :

Parish	Day					Tip				
Bozeat	Tuesday					Irchester				
Doddington, Great .. .	Wednesday					Irchester				
Earls Barton	Thursday and Friday					Irchester				
Easton Maudit	Tuesday					Irchester				
Ecton	Wednesday					Irchester				
Grendon	Tuesday					Irchester				
Hardwick	Wednesday					Irchester				
Harrowden, Great	Wednesday					Irchester				
Harrowden, Little	Thursday					Irchester				
Irchester	Monday and Wednesday					Irchester				
Isham	Monday					Irchester				
Mears Ashby	Monday					Irchester				
Newton Bromswold	Alternate Wednesdays					Irchester				
Orlingbury	Thursday					Irchester				
Strixton	Tuesday					Irchester				
Sywell	Wednesday					Irchester				
Wilby	Thursday					Irchester				
Wollaston	Tuesday					Irchester				

Refuse for the Rural area is tipped by arrangement with the Wellingborough Urban District at their tip. Tips in use during the year were at Gipsy Lane, Irchester, and Croyland Road, Wellingborough. These tips are controlled.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS, PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, S.269.—There are a number of sites in the Rural area, the two large sites being at Wilby Lido and Overstone. There is a second caravan site at Wilby and also one at Ecton. Caravan sites used by persons in Show business are situated at Earls Barton and Lt. Irchester. The sites are maintained in a satisfactory manner and improvements have been carried out at Wilby.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

At the end of 1956, 723 houses had been approved by the Ministry since the War. Of this number 649 have been completed and the remainder at the end of the year were under construction. The building programme for the year was satisfactory, 64 houses were completed compared with 40 in the previous year. The programme was delayed temporarily by minor delays in the delivery of some material.

The construction of private houses carried on at a reduced rate probably due to financial restrictions. Sixteen dwellings were completed compared with 29 in 1955.

Two improvement grants were approved during the year and thirteen improvement schemes completed. The whole of the 1956 housing programme was devoted to the re-housing of persons displaced under the Slum Clearance scheme. 86 dwellings were required for this purpose and the houses were erected at Bozeat, Earls Barton, Grendon, Irchester, Lt. Harrowden and Wollaston. The building programme could not commence at Lt. Harrowden until early in 1957 due to long negotiations in acquiring the site.

Prices for road works and houses were submitted for approval to the Ministry in 1956.

In addition to acquiring land at Ecton, Hardwick, and Wilby for housing purposes, the Council took steps to acquire sites of property demolished or likely to be demolished under the Slum Clearance programme to ensure a reasonable re-development of these areas. This is a very sound plan and cuts down costs as often roads, water supplies and sewers are available on the site. It also improves the appearance of the village by doing away with unsightly areas, and more important still, saves agricultural land. Steps were also taken towards the requisition of additional land at Earls Barton.

Two new types of bungalows were designed especially for use in connection with the Slum Clearance programme. These were as follows :

Type 'T'—a two-bedroomed, three person bungalow.

Type 'U'—one-bedroomed bungalow.

Also a new convertible type of house was designed—Type 'V'. These houses can be used either as a pair of three-bedroomed houses or one four-bedroomed and one two-bedroomed house.

The number of applicants for Council houses at the end of the year was 345. This is 116 less than at the end of the previous year. All applicants were circulated to see if they still wished to remain on the Housing list. An increase was noticed in the number of applicants living in Urban areas who wished to live in the country.

The Council continued to pursue its Slum Clearance programme with commendable vigour during the year and a summary of action taken is as follows :

	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Persons displaced</i>
Demolition and Closing Orders Housing Act, 1936.—Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11	2	—
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.—Closing Orders made under Section 10 (1)	25	32

<i>Repairs</i>	<i>Informal Action</i>	<i>No. of Houses</i>
No. of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as the result of informal action by the local authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts		19
Housing Act, 1936.—No. of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16)		
(a) by owner		4
(b) by local authority in default of owners ..		nil

From the above it will be seen that the Council is making every effort to clear up unfit properties in the area.

The following Official Representations were made to the Council concerning Clearance Areas during the year :

(1) Easton Lane, Bozeat	6 houses
(2) Lt. Harrowden (No. 5) Smith's Yard ..	5 „
(3) Flanders Yard, Irchester	2 „
(4) Ward's Terrace, Irchester	6 „
(5) London End, Irchester	2 „
(6) Hinwick Road, Wollaston	5 „
(7) Main Road, Grendon	3 „
(8) Lt. Harrowden, Stanley's Yard	6 „
(9) Bozeat (No. 10) High Street	4 „
(10) Wollaston (No. 10) London Road	3 „
(11) Wollaston (No. 9) London Road	2 „
(12) Wollaston (No. 11) London Road	7 „

Clearance Orders were made for the above areas and confirmed by the Ministry.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SAMPLES.—The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is the responsible authority for milk production and the sampling of milk from that source. The County Council is the licensing authority for pasteurisation plants and take samples of pasteurised milk. The results of these samples are not passed on to the Local Authority.

The Local Authority is responsible for issuing Dealers' Licences within the district and supplementary licences to those dairymen whose dairies are outside the district. The sampling of milk from licensed dealers and supplementary licence holders was instituted towards the end of the year. 29 samples were taken and the results were all satisfactory. Samples taken were as follows :

	<i>No.</i>	<i>Result</i>
A. Tuberculin Tested Milk	2	2 satisfactory
B. Tuberculin Tested Milk, Pasteurised	3	3 „
C. Pasteurised	24	24 „

ICE CREAM.—There are 55 premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of Ice Cream. This is five more than last year. These dealers sell only pre-packed ice cream. Sampling of Ice Cream was instituted towards the end of the year. Twenty-six samples were taken and the results were as follows :

<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Grade 1</i>	<i>Grade 2</i>	<i>Grade 3</i>	<i>Grade 4</i>
26	19	6	1	—

These results are satisfactory and comply with Ministry recommendations which say that at least 80% of samples taken should be in Grade 1 and 2.

FOOD PREMISES.—In Section H, Table No. 12 gives a summary of inspections carried out by the Health Inspectors during the year. Included are the following :

Visits to Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	342
Visits to Food Premises	..	..	..	214

These two items have taken up a considerable amount of time of the Inspectors and the number of visits shows a very great increase over last year. In the case of Food premises this increase is due to the Inspectors implementing the new Food Hygiene Regulations.

MEAT INSPECTION.—Four Slaughterhouses are licensed in the area :

Irchester—F. C. A. Dunmore,
Co-operative Society.

Earls Barton—Co-operative Society.

Bozeat—W. C. Garrett.

All animals slaughtered for human consumption were inspected during the year. This included the following :

<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Beasts</i>
429	697	252

These figures showed a marked increase on the previous year which were :

<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Beasts</i>
275	389	152

The following quantity of meat was condemned as unfit for human consumption :

Meat	..	..	..	..	2,850 lbs.
------	----	----	----	----	------------

The following tinned and other foods were condemned during the same period :

Tinned and other foods	..	..	469 lbs.
------------------------	----	----	----------

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

SMALLPOX.—No cases occurred.

VACCINATION.—The following number of vaccinations were carried out during the year :

	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2-4</i>	<i>5-14</i>	<i>15 years or over</i>	<i>Total</i>
Primary	79	2	5	3	7	96
Re-vaccination	—	—	—	1	16	17
						113

The figures for the previous year were :

	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2-4</i>	<i>5-14</i>	<i>15 years or over</i>	<i>Total</i>
Primary	94	1	5	3	18	121
Re-vaccination	—	—	1	1	9	11
						132

It is unfortunate that the vaccination figures should show a fall. The occurrence of smallpox is always a possibility and vaccination is the only safeguard against this disease.

SCARLET FEVER.—Nine cases were notified compared with four in the previous year. The cases continue to be of a mild nature. Such cases are best nursed at home if possible.

DIPHTHERIA.—Once again the area has been free from this disease. It is now ten years since the last case occurred.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.—The following table shows the number of children in the different age groups who had completed a full course of immunisation up to the 31st December, 1956 :

Age at 31.12.56 <i>i.e.</i> born in year	<i>Under</i> <i>1</i> <i>1</i> <i>2</i> <i>3</i> <i>4</i> 1956 1955 1954 1953 1952					<i>5 to 9</i> 1947-1951	<i>10 to 14</i> 1942-1946	<i>Total</i> <i>Under 15</i>
Number Immunised	13	129	119	140	134	785	694	2,014

The following immunisations were carried out at the different Infant Welfare Centres in the area during the year :

	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5-9</i>	<i>10-14</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Booster</i>
Diphtheria									
Immunisation only	2	—	2	2	4	4	2	16	121
Combined Diphtheria/ Whooping Cough	103	21	13	5	2	2	—	146	28
	105	21	15	7	6	6	2	162	149
Whooping Cough only	3	—	1	—	—	1	—	5	2

WHOOPING COUGH.—Seventeen cases of Whooping Cough were notified compared with 21 in the previous year.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.—No cases were notified. No cases have occurred in the last two years.

POLIOMYELITIS.—One case of Poliomyelitis was notified during the year. This case was seen and sent to Hospital. Clinical symptoms were similar to poliomyelitis but virus investigation was doubtful. There were two cases in the previous year. Great strides to combat this disease were made in 1956 and a vaccination introduced to prevent this disease. The vaccine consists of three strains of the virus killed. Children in selective age groups were offered vaccination and the following inoculations were carried out :

	<i>1 year</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5-9</i>	<i>Total</i>
Poliomyelitis vaccination	—	2	7	7	27	43

The vaccine was in short supply but this year with increased production the numbers of children vaccinated shows a large increase.

INFLUENZA.—One death was attributed to this cause. There was also one death in the previous year.

PNEUMONIA.—Sixteen cases were notified compared with nine in the previous year. Two deaths were attributed to this cause. In the previous year there were five deaths.

ERYSIPELAS.—No cases were notified. There were also no cases in the previous year.

MEASLES.—33 cases were notified compared with 156 in the previous year.

DYSENTERY.—Six cases were notified compared with two in the previous year.

FOOD POISONING.—Six cases were notified compared with one in the previous year. A link was established between these cases and an outbreak of Food Poisoning in another area.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.—No cases occurred.

TYPHOID AND PARATYPHOID.—One case of Paratyphoid was notified during the year. In the previous year there were two cases.

TUBERCULOSIS.—Eight new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year. Seven cases were Pulmonary Tuberculosis (six males) and one case of non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis occurred in a female. In the previous year there had been six new cases all of pulmonary tuberculosis. One death in a female occurred from non-pulmonary tuberculosis during the year. There was one death in the previous year also in a female but the cause of death was pulmonary tuberculosis.

During the year nine persons were admitted to the Rushden Sanatorium and 14 discharged. The number of persons on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was :

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pulmonary	..	..	..	47	28	75
Non-pulmonary	..	..	..	2	9	11
				49	37	86

The After-Care Committee continues to do excellent work in the area.

SECTION G.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

There are 56 factories in the Rural area which is two more than last year. Twenty-nine inspections were carried out during the year. Three written notices were served and three cases were referred by H.M. Inspector. Further details will be seen in Section H, Table No. 14.

The number of outworkers on the August list was 44 which shows a fall of 15 on last year's figures. No action was necessary in respect of Homework (Section 110 and 111).

No serious complaint was received concerning factories where mechanical power is not used with regard to ventilation, temperature, drainage, numbers employed, or want of cleanliness.

SECTION H.

STATISTICAL TABLES, 1956

TABLE No. 1.

CAUSES OF DEATH

<i>Causes of Death</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	1	1
3. Syphilitics disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1	2
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	3	1	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	—	5
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	—	—	—
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	—	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	17	7	24
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	1	—	1
16. Diabetes	1	2	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	13	13	26
18. Coronary disease, angina	20	14	34
19. Hypertension with heart disease ..	1	2	3
20. Other heart diseases	9	18	27
21. Other circulatory diseases	3	4	7
22. Influenza	—	1	1
23. Pneumonia	1	1	2
24. Bronchitis	4	2	6
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	2	—	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa ..	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and neprosis	—	2	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	—	—	—
31. Congenial malformations	1	1	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	8	13
33. Motor vehicle accidents	3	1	4
34. All other accidents	2	3	5
35. Suicide	1	—	1
36. Homicide and operations of war ..	—	—	—
ALL CAUSES	93	83	176

DEATHS FROM SELECTED CAUSES

TABLE NO. 2

Year	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Cancer		Diseases of Heart and Blood Vessels		Bronchitis Pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1946	2	.15	5	.39	22	1.75	61	4.86	20	1.59
1947	2	.16	3	.23	25	1.96	93	7.31	17	1.33
1948	—	—	5	.39	19	1.48	87	6.81	13	1.01
1949	—	—	3	.23	16	1.23	89	6.86	22	1.69
1950	2	.15	4	.30	29	2.18	89	6.71	18	1.35
1951	—	—	3	.23	22	1.69	75	5.76	29	2.23
1952	3	.23	3	.23	24	1.69	101	7.76	9	0.69
1953	—	—	—	—	15	1.04	75	5.21	9	0.62
1954	—	—	—	—	35	2.45	68	4.76	12	0.84
1955	—	—	1	.07	32	2.27	85	6.04	9	0.63
1956	1	.07	—	—	36	2.64	97	7.13	8	0.58

COMPARISON OF STILLBIRTHS, ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS AND MASCULINITY OF BIRTH

TABLE NO. 3

Year	Stillbirths per 1,000		Illegitimate births per 1,000 live births	Male births per 1,000 live female births
	Population of all ages	Total Births live and still		
1946	.39	22.32	105.02	1,027
1947	.39	22.02	58.55	1,055
1948	.54	30.56	72.07	947
1949	.38	23.80	51.28	1,029
1950	.15	10.81	32.78	1,033
1951	.69	48.38	39.54	1,082
1952	.15	10.36	47.12	1,122
1953	.34	25.51	36.64	989
1954	.14	10.86	65.93	1,246
1955	.49	37.03	71.42	1,166
1956	.22	15.38	31.25	828

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1956 AND PREVIOUS YEARS

TABLE NO. 4

Year	Estimated Population	Births		Deaths			
				Under 1 year		All ages	
		No.	Rate per 1,000	No.	Rate per 1,000	No.	Rate per 1,000
1946	12,530	219	17.47	15	68.49	152	12.13
1947	12,720	222	17.45	7	31.49	189	14.85
1948	12,760	222	17.39	13	58.55	153	11.99
1949	12,960	205	15.81	8	39.02	172	13.27
1950	13,250	183	13.81	7	38.25	170	12.83
1951	13,000	177	13.61	7	39.54	186	14.30
1952	13,000	191	14.69	3	15.18	174	13.38
1953	14,370	191	13.29	6	31.45	128	8.90
1954	14,270	182	12.76	2	10.93	144	10.09
1955	14,070	182	12.93	6	32.96	153	10.87
1956	13,600	192	14.11	4	20.83	176	12.94

NEW CASES OF, AND DEATHS FROM, TUBERCULOSIS, 1956

TABLE NO. 5.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- respiratory		Respiratory		Non- respiratory	
	Male	Fe- male	Male	Fe- male	Male	Fe- male	Male	Fe- male
	Male	Fe- male	Male	Fe- male	Male	Fe- male	Male	Fe- male
— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
— 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
—25	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65+	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	6	1	—	1	—	—	—	1*

* One death (female) assigned by Registrar General in his returns.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

(Other than Tuberculosis) 1956.

TABLE No. 6

<i>Disease</i>	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	2	1	—	1	9
Pneumonia	2	8	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	16
Measles	24	1	2	2	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	33
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	7	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	17
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	6
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	6
Para-Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	28	9	4	4	9	14	6	2	3	1	5	4	89

TABLE NO. 7.

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES
(Other than Tuberculosis) 1956.

<i>Disease</i>	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-10	-15	-20	-35	-45	-65	65-	<i>All Ages</i>	<i>Removed to Hospital</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever ..	—	1	—	—	—	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	9	1	—
Pneumonia ..	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	3	3	2	4	16	—	2
Measles	—	3	4	2	4	16	2	2	—	—	—	—	33	2	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	1	2	—	11	—	—	1	1	—	—	17	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	6	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	1	—	1	6	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Para-typhoid ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	4	6	4	7	37	6	3	7	6	3	5	89	4	2

INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

(other than Tuberculosis)

IN INDIVIDUAL PARISHES, 1956

TABLE NO. 8.

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Diphtheria	Poliomyelitis	Food Poisoning	Dysentery	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Para-typhoid	Malaria	TOTAL
Bozeat	1	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	13
Doddington, Great	—	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Earls Barton	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Easton Maudit ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Ecton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grendon	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
Hardwick	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Harrowden, Great ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Harrowden, Little ..	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Irchester	—	—	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	22
Irchester, Little ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Isham	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16
Mears Ashby	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Newton Bromswold	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orlningbury	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Strixton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sywell	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wilby	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Wollaston	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	7
TOTALS	9	16	33	17	—	—	—	1	6	6	—	1	—	89

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH
AGE AND SEX INCIDENCE

TABLE No. 9.

<i>Age Periods</i>	<i>Measles</i>		<i>Whooping Cough</i>	
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
—6 months	—	—	—	—
—12 months	—	—	—	1
—18 months	1	—	—	—
—2 years	1	1	—	—
—2½ years	3	1	—	—
—3 years	—	—	1	—
—4 years	1	1	—	2
—5 years	2	2	—	—
—10 years	11	5	5	5
—15 years	2	—	—	—
15 years+	2	—	—	3
ALL AGES	23	10	6	11
TOTALS	33		17	

CAUSES OF DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR

TABLE No. 10.

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Age in weeks</i>					
	<i>-1</i>	<i>-2</i>	<i>-3</i>	<i>-4</i>	<i>5-52</i>	<i>Total</i>
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous diseases ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteritis and Diarrhœa ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	1	—	—	—	—	1
Premature Birth	2	—	—	—	—	2
Injury at Birth	—	—	—	—	—	—
Asphyxia and Atelectasis	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Debility	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hæmolytic Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Causes	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	4	—	—	—	—	4

TABLE NO. 11.

HOUSING PROGRAMME UP TO 31st DECEMBER, 1956

1.	Number of houses proposed to be erected as approved by the Ministry of Health to date						723
2.	(a) Number of sites concerning which lay-out plans and house plans have been approved by the Ministry of Health ..						36
	(b) Number of houses contained in such approved lay-outs ..						723
3.	Superficial area plans approved, determined in accordance with paragraph 4 of the Standards of New Houses adopted by the Joint Committee :						
	(a) Non-parlour types.	2 bedrooms	I	type	square feet	..	800
		2	„	R	„ „ „	..	840
		3	„	L	„ „ „	..	868
		3	„	K	„ „ „	..	872
		3	„	N	„ „ „	..	952
		3	„	O	„ „ „	..	965
		3	„	P	„ „ „	..	972
		3	„	J	„ „ „	..	946
		3	„	H	„ „ „	..	937
				G	„ „ „	..	914
				F	„ „ „	..	912
				D	„ „ „	..	850
		Convertible	$\frac{3}{4}$	„	„ „	..	927
	(b) Parlour type	3 bedrooms	B	„	„ „	..	900
		Duplex	E	„	„ „	..	903
	(c) Bungalow	2 bedrooms	Q	„	„ „	..	745
		2 „	T	„	„ „	..	635
		1 bedroom	V	„	„ „	..	564
4.	(a) Number of houses for which tenders have been invited ..						62
	(b) Number of houses for which negotiated prices have been obtained						661
5.	Number of houses the erection of which have begun						723

TABLE No. 12.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS, ETC.

Number of visits and inspection	1,695
Slaughterhouses on Register	4
Number of Slaughtermen Licensed	16
Visits to Slaughterhouses	342
Visits to Butchers' Shops	156
Number of Bakehouses	6
Visits to Bakehouses	20
Food condemned as unfit for human consumption	3,319 lbs.
Premises Licensed to sell Ice Cream	55
Licences issued under Milk (Special Designation) Orders, 1949 ..	14
Blocked Sewers and Drains	32
Insanitary Drainage	9
Defective ventilating shafts	1
Insanitary ditches	3
Cesspools cleansed	65
Insanitary Closet accommodation	24
Insanitary Ashbins	15
Offensive Accumulations	2
Smoke and Dust nuisance	8
Rat infested premises	27
Premises infested with bugs, etc.	3
Onimals kept as to be a nuisance	2
Inspection of Food Premises	214
Nuisances from defects in houses :—	
Defective roofs	17
Defective paving	2
Dangerous stairs	3
Defective doors and windows	14
Plaster to repair	11
Damp and defective floors	5
Damp and defective walls	16
Defective eaves guttering	8
Defective sinks and wastes	3
Dangerous chimneys	5
Manhole covers	7
Notifications of Infectious Diseases	9
Number of rooms fumigated	9
Samples of water taken	46
List of Outworkers	44
Licences for sites for moveable dwellings	4

SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF WATER SAMPLES TAKEN FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

TABLE No. 13.

PARISH				RESULT				
				No. of Samples taken	Very Satis- factory	Satis- factory	Sus- picious	Unsatis- factory
Bozeat	..	..	..	5	4	—	1	—
Doddington, Great	..	..	..	2	2	—	—	—
Earls Barton	..	..	..	10(4W)	7	—	—	(3W)
Easton Maudit	..	..	..	2	1	—	1	—
Ecton	..	..	..	3	3	—	—	—
Grendon	..	..	..	6(1W)	5	—	—	(1W)
Hardwick	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—
Harrowden, Great	..	..	..	(4W)	—	—	—	(4W)
Harrowden, Little	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—
Irchester and Little Irchester	..	..	..	7	7	—	—	—
Isham	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—
Mears Ashby	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—
Newton Bromswold	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—
Orlingbury	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—
Strixton	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—
Sywell	..	..	..	(13W)	(3W)	(3W)	(2W)	(5W)
Wilby	..	..	..	6(3W)	2	1	(1W)	(2W)
Wollaston	..	..	..	12(6W)	6	—	—	(6W)
Wilby Swimming Pool	..	..	..	8	7	1	—	—
Sywell Swimming Pool	..	..	..	10	8	2	—	—
From Sources :								
Sywell	..	..	..	36	33	—	1	2
Wollaston	..	..	..	39	33	1	1	4
Grendon Pumping Station	..	..	..	3	3	—	—	—
Earls Barton	..	..	..	4	4	—	—	—
Overstone Solarium	..	..	..	1	—	—	—	1
Overstone Spring	..	..	..	1	—	—	1	—
TOTALS	..	..	..	172	128	8	8	28

Results of samples taken by the Mid-Northants. Water Board are not included in this Table.

(W) = Well.

TABLE NO. 14.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937 and 1948
for the year 1956.

PART I. OF THE ACT

1.—INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	51	25	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	56	29	3	—

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					—
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	4	4	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	4	4	—	3	—

PART VIII. OF THE ACT—OUTWORK

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>Section 110</i>			<i>Section 111</i>		
	<i>No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council</i>	<i>No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises</i>	<i>Notices served</i>	<i>Prosecutions</i>
Wearing apparel—						
Making, etc.	41	—	—	—	—	—
Cleaning & Washing	—	—	—	—	—	—
Box Making	—					
Curtains & Furniture hangings	—	—	—	—	—	—
Furniture & Upholstery	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carding, etc., of Buttons, etc.	1	—	—	—	—	—
Stuffed Toys	2	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	44	—	—	—	—	—

